

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /064 W

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R 261306Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1157

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USEC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1343

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SP, GW, ETRN

SUBJ: STRAUSS VISIT TO MADRID AND AIRBUS SALES

REF: BONN 2915

1. CSU LEADER FRANZ JOSEPH STRAUSS VISITED MADRID FEB 21-24. ALTHOUGH VISIT OFFICIALLY BILLED AS LINKED WITH STRAUSS' RESPONSIBILITIES AS DIRECTOR OF BOARD OF AIRBUS SALES CORPORATION, CSU LEADER ALSO MET WITH PREMIER ARIAS NAVARRO, FONMIN CORTINA, AND SAW NUMBER OF SPANISH POLITICIANS. MEDIA GAVE SOME PROMINENCE TO VISIT BY IMPORTANT GERMAN POLITICAL LEADER WHICH, TAKING PLACE OVER SAME WEEKEND AS "PRIVATE" VISIT BY PRINCE JUAN CARLOS WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING, GAVE IMPRESSION TO SPANISH PUBLIC THAT SPAIN WAS SOMEHOW DRAWING CLOSER TO EUROPE. FRG EMBASSY POL COUNSELOR PROVIDED U.S. WITH BACKGROUND OF VISIT AS FOLLOWS.

2. PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS DISCUSS AT HIGHEST GOS LEVEL ISSUE OF SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN AIRBUS PROJECT. IN FRG VIEW, GOS HAS AS YET FAILED LIVE UP TO COMMITMENTS ORDER AIRBUS ALTHOUGH SPAIN BENEFITTED CONSIDERABLY FROM PARTICIPATION IN FIRST  
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ALL-EUROPEAN PROJECT IN AERONAUTICAL INDUSTRY AND PROJECT HAS

MEANT NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR SPAIN AS WELL AS SOURCE OF EMPLOYMENT. IBERIA (SPAIN'S AIRLINE) HAS STATED -- AS HAS SPANISH PRESS -- THAT SALES CONTRACT ALLOWED IT TO CANCEL ORDER IF INSUFFICIENT NUMBER AIRBUS AIRCRAFT SOLD. SENIOR IBERIA OFFICIAL TOLD EMOFF FEB 21 IBERIA HAS DROPPED ALL ORDERS AND OPTIONS, ALTHOUGH THIS MAY CHANGE DUE TO GOS PRESSURE. IBERIA'S TRAFFIC PROJECTIONS ALSO WELL BELOW WHAT THEY WERE WHEN ORDER FIRST DISCUSSED.

3. IN HIS MEETINGS WITH ARIAS, FONMIN CORTINA, AND IBERIA PRESIDENT, STRAUSS EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF NOT RENEGING ON EARLIER COMMITMENTS IN EUROPEAN CONTEXT AND RISKING COMPROMISE OF OTHER EUROPEAN OPTIONS IN FUTURE. ACCORDING TO POL COUNSELOR, ARIAS WAS MUCH IMPRESSED WITH STRAUSS' ARGUMENTATION AND FRG REPS CAME AWAY FROM MEETING WITH IMPRESSION THAT GOS WOULD RESTUDY ENTIRE ISSUE. STRAUSS ALSO DISCUSSED IN GENERAL TERMS OTHER POLITICAL ISSUES AND DEFENSE ISSUES WITH ARIAS AND CORTINA. ACCORDING TO FRG EMBASSY SOURCE, CORTINA TOLD STRAUSS THAT CONTRARY TO WHAT HE HAD HEARD ELSEWHERE, SPAIN WOULD ALWAYS SOMEHOW "BE DIFFERENT" AND NOT BE ENTIRELY ASSIMILABLE TO EUROPE.

4. FRG AMBASSADOR GAVE DINNER FOR STRAUSS ATTENDED BY LEADING POLITICIANS JOSE SOLIS RUIZ, COUNT OF MOTRICO, AND SILVA MUNOZ, WHO ALL HAVE HELD KEY POSITIONS UNDER FRANCO REGIME IN PAST AND WERE NOW ENGAGED IN ORGANIZING POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS UNDER RECENT STATUTE. FRG EMBASSY MADE NO EFFORT TO CONTACT ANY OPPOSITION CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS SUCH AS RUIZ GIMENEZ BECAUSE INFO AVAILABLE TO THEM INDICATED THAT THEY WERE NOT POLITICALLY ORIENTED TOWARDS CSU. EMBASSY COUNSELOR MENTIONED THAT BRUNO HECK AND WERNER MARKS HAD VISITED MADRID TWO WEEKS AGO AND OPPOSITION CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS LED BY RUIZ GIMENEZ HAD BUNGLED EMBASSY ARRANGEMENTS TO MEET WITH CDU LEADERS.

5. STRAUSS ALSO HAD PRIVATE DINNER WITH SOLIS FAMILY. SOLIS, WHO WAS FORMERLY SECRETARY GENERAL OF MOVEMENT, PLAYED KEY ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH FRG GOVT IN 1949, INVOLVING STRAUSS, IN PREVENTING PROPERTY BELONGING TO "REICH" FALLING INTO HANDS OF ALLIES IN MADRID AND SAVING IT FOR FRG. SOLIS HAS BEEN

AWARDED "BUNDESDIENSTKRUZ" AND HAS MAINTAINED FRIENDSHIP WITH  
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STRAUSS OVER THE YEARS.  
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## Message Attributes

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